

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejection and further examination are requested.

Claims 1, 6, 8-22, 33 and 34 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 23 and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Tate (JP 2002-319810).

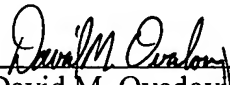
In order to expedite prosecution of the present application, claim 23 has been amended so as to include the limitation of allowable claim 33. Further, claim 33 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. As a result, only allowable claims remain pending in the application.

In addition, claims 34 and 35 have been amended to make editorial revisions thereto. These revisions have been made to place the claims in better U.S. form. None of these amendments have been made to narrow the scope of protection of the claims, or to address issues related to patentability, and therefore, these amendments should not be construed as limiting the scope of equivalents of the claimed features offered by the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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